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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 1994/52 of 4 March 1994, entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights", the Commission on Human Rights, recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to strengthening the World Campaign, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-first session, a report on public information activities, with special emphasis on the activities of the World Public Information Campaign.

2. The five main areas of activity of the World Campaign are: the publications programme; the translation programme; briefings, exhibitions and human rights observances; fellowships and internships; and workshops, seminars and training courses.

3. As stated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), the World Conference on Human Rights considered human rights education, training and public information essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace. It also underlined the importance of strengthening the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and stated that Governments, with the assistance of intergovernmental organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, should promote an increased awareness of human rights and mutual tolerance. It asked Governments to initiate and support education in human rights and to undertake effective dissemination of public information in that field. The World Conference also stated that the advisory services and the technical assistance programme of the United Nations system should be able to respond immediately to requests from States for educational and training activities in the field of human rights as well as for special education concerning standards as contained in international human rights instruments and in humanitarian law and their application to special groups such as military forces, law enforcement personnel, police and the health profession. The World Conference also stressed that the proclamation of a United Nations decade for human rights education should be considered in order to promote, encourage and focus the educational activities.

4. In its resolution 1994/52, the Commission welcomed the appointment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the function, inter alia, of coordinating relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993.

5. The responsibilities of the High Commissioner are, inter alia, to promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, political, economic and social rights; to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose; to provide, through the Centre for Human Rights and other appropriate institutions, advisory services, and technical and financial assistance and at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights; to coordinate

relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights; and to carry out overall supervision of the Centre for Human Rights.

6. The Centre for Human Rights assists the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination and implementation of human rights education activities and, to that end, provides to Governments, on request, human rights education, training, information fellowships and advisory services.

7. In its resolution 1994/52, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report on public information activities with special emphasis on the activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, including information on expenditures incurred in 1994 and those envisaged for future activities. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request. It updates and provides additional information to that contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights (A/49/582), submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/127. The latter report will be available to the Commission at its present session.

PUBLICATIONS, TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. The publications programme

8. The elaboration of printed material on human rights is one of the main aspects of the information programme of the Centre for Human Rights. This material is distributed to national and regional human rights organizations, academic and research institutions, the media, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals. The list of publications issued by the Centre as of December 1994 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Relationship between public information activities and the programme of advisory services and technical assistance

9. Since its inception, the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights has been closely linked to the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Centre for Human Rights. This link has been strengthened in recent years as the Centre attempts to rationalize scarce resources and maximize its overall effectiveness in both areas. The Professional Training Series is one example of the close relationship between the public information and technical cooperation projects. Other areas of the two programmes on which there is cooperation are fellowships, internships and training courses.

1. Fellowship programme

10. The General Assembly made direct provision for the human rights fellowship programme in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955. Under the terms of that resolution, assistance provided by the Secretary-General is to

be rendered in agreement with Governments on the basis of their requests. Fellowships are awarded only to candidates nominated by their Governments, and are financed under the regular budget for advisory services.

11. The first part of the Fellowship Programme for 1994 took place from 31 October to 4 November at the United Nations Office at Geneva, where participants were given a briefing on the work of the branches that make up the Centre. The second part of the programme took place from 7 to 25 November at the ILO Centre at Turin, Italy. The programme focused on training to comply with human rights reporting obligations.

12. Applications to attend the programme have tripled over the past three years, making the selection procedure extremely competitive. In 1994 a particularly large number of applications for fellowships was received: 78 Governments nominated 112 candidates, of whom 30 were selected, 15 of them women. The Secretary-General has attempted, within the limits of available resources, to ensure a broad distribution of fellowships among different nationalities, with priority being given, inter alia, to applicants from developing countries, taking into consideration the allocation of a fair share to women in conformity with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

13. The programme is funded from the regular budget. Following the conclusion of the 1994 fellowship programme, the Centre conducted a comprehensive evaluation, which resulted in the elaboration of a plan for the programme's revision.

2. Internship programme

14. During the reporting period, the Centre for Human Rights provided some 160 internships to graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations action and procedures in the field of human rights, through active participation in the work of the Centre under the direct supervision of staff members. The internship programme has, over the years, proved to be beneficial both to the interns themselves and to the Centre.

C. Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations

Academic and research institutions

15. The Centre for Human rights cooperates with the International Institute for Human Rights at Strasbourg, France, where three staff members gave lectures in English, French and Spanish for a one-week period during the Institute's annual human rights courses in the summer of 1994. United Nations human rights fellows regularly spend two weeks at the Institute in order to deepen their knowledge of regional human rights protection systems.

16. The Centre continued its cooperation with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights at San José, Costa Rica; the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy; the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences at Syracuse, Italy; and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund, Sweden.

17. Cooperation also continued throughout 1994 with the Arab Institute for Human Rights at Tunis and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights at Banjul, Gambia. Staff of the Centre for Human Rights also gave briefings at the request of human rights and academic institutions, including the Liverpool Institute of Public Administration and Management (United Kingdom), the Institut des hautes études commerciales de Liège (Belgium), the Amsterdam School of International Relations and Erasmus University (Netherlands), Lund University (Sweden), the Fédération francaise des clubs UNESCO (France), the Hague Academy of International Law and the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights.

18. Within the framework of its technical cooperation activities the Centre has assisted and continues to support through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation a growing number of institutes and centres. During 1994 the following institutes and centres were assisted: the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights at Banjul, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Instituto de Promoción de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio del Interior in Buenos Aires, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and a number of national institutes in Poland.

D. Budget

19. The budget for the 1994-1995 biennium for the printing of information and reference materials is US$ 254,000. The publications programme of the Centre for Human Rights is continuously expanding to respond to the increasing need for human rights information. Moreover, the role of the Centre in coordinating the human rights activities of the United Nations system will require the Centre to undertake additional activities in the field of publications and information.

E. Assessment of the impact of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights

20. In its resolution 1994/52 the Commission encouraged all Member States to make special efforts to provide, facilitate and promote publicity for the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights, to accord priority to the dissemination in their respective national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments and to provide information and education on practical ways in which the rights and freedoms enjoyed under these instruments can be promoted.

21. The first objectives of the Campaign are to stimulate public interest in human rights issues and to create awareness in people around the world of the principles involved in human rights issues, as well as in many activities developed at the international, regional and national levels for the promotion and respect of human rights.

22. In relation to public interest, the considerable increase in requests for human rights information and documentation from Governments, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, schools, national and regional human rights centres and individuals indicates a dramatic interest in human rights issues throughout the world. The increased public interest in

human rights programmes of the United Nations is also being reflected by the media. This interest can be measured by the numerous articles and information published in newspapers, in particular in developing countries, concerning United Nations programmes and activities. In addition, news agencies regularly contact the Centre for information and publications. The increase in the mailing list for human rights information, which includes several news agencies, also reflects this interest, as does the continuous increase in the number of requests for briefings received by the Centre from universities, high schools, journalists, non-governmental organizations, diplomats and public officials.

23. Public awareness is a direct consequence of such interest and it is reflected in the numerous initiatives to establish new governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and groups dealing with human rights issues; the publication of a great number of reviews, bulletins, articles and studies on human rights issues (which are received regularly by the Centre); the increasing number of meetings, seminars, debates and conferences on human rights held all over the world; the inclusion of human rights issues in the curricula of universities, schools and other educational institutions and the discussion opened by all international, regional and national organizations dealing with economic, social and cultural development on the integration of human rights elements into their programmes of action.

24. A significant increase in the rate at which human rights treaties are being ratified has been observed over the past several years. In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights adopted the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action, in which it urged universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000. It also encouraged all States to accede to all international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other relevant instruments of international humanitarian law.

25. The World Conference on Human Rights stressed that human rights education is essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding and tolerance. It further underlined the importance of strengthening the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights.

26. The World Public Information Campaign is now firmly in place and a strategy has been developed to ensure its continued, effective implementation. At present, however, the Centre is unable to guarantee full implementation of the strategy. The deployment of adequate financial and human resources to this important sector is necessary to ensure that the opportunity offered by the upsurge in public interest in the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights is not wasted.

Annex

PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AS OF DECEMBER 1994

Fact Sheets

No. 1	Human Rights Machinery
No. 2	The International Bill of Human Rights
No. 3	Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights
No. 4	Methods of Combating Torture
No. 5	Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
No. 6	Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
No. 7	Communications Procedures
No. 8	World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights
No. 9	The Rights of Indigenous Peoples
No. 10	The Rights of the Child
No. 11	Summary or Arbitrary Executions
No. 12	The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
No. 13	International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
No. 14	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
No. 15	Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee
No. 16	The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
No. 17	The Committee against Torture
No. 18	Minority Rights
No. 19	National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
No. 20	Human Rights and Refugees
No. 21	The Human Right to Adequate Housing
No. 22	Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee

Bulletin of Human Rights

Special issue on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1988)

Implementation of international human rights instruments (89/1)

Special procedures: The role of non-governmental organizations (90/1)

Human rights and humanitarian law; Human rights and refugee law (91/1)

The rights of the child (91/2)

Ad hoc publications

European workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: past-present-future, proceedings (Milan, 7-9 September 1988) (HR/PUB/89/1)

The administration of justice and human rights for East European countries: report of a United Nations training course (Moscow, 21-25 November 1988) (HR/PUB/89/2)

The teaching of human rights: report of an international seminar, (Geneva, 5-9 December 1988) (HR/PUB/89/3)

The effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States: report of a seminar (Geneva, 16-20 January 1989) (HR/PUB/89/5)

Application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights under the Optional Protocol by the Human Rights Committee

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (HR/PUB/90/1)

Report of an international consultation on AIDS and human rights (Geneva, 26-28 July 1989) (HR/PUB/90/2)

United Nations training course on international norms and standards in the field of human rights: proceedings (Moscow, 27 November-1 December 1989) (HR/PUB/90/6)

Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination (HR/PUB/90/8)

Manual on Human Rights Reporting (HR/PUB/91/1) (Sales No. E.91.XIV.1)

The realization of the right to development: global consultation on the right to development as a human right (Geneva, 8-12 January 1990) (HR/PUB/91/2)

Political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid: report of a seminar (Geneva, 10-14 December 1990) (HR/PUB/91/3)

The first twenty years: progress report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/91/4)

Workshop on international human rights instruments and reporting obligations: preparation of reports to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies (Moscow, 26-30 August 1991) (HR/PUB/91/5)

African Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice (Cairo, 8-12 July 1991) (HR/PUB/91/6)

Teaching and Learning about human rights - A manual for schools of social work and the social work profession (HR/PUB/92/1)

United Nations Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on Human Rights Issues (Jakarta, 26-28 January 1993) (HR/PUB/93/1)

Human Rights Study Series

No. 1 Right to adequate food as a human right by A. Eide (Sales No. E.89.XIV.2)

No. 2 Elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief by E. Odio Benito (Sales No. E.89.XIV.3)

No. 3 Freedom of the individual under law: an analysis of article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by E.I. Daes (Sales No. 89.XIV.5)

No. 4 Status of the individual and contemporary international law: promotion, protection and restoration of human rights at national, regional and international levels, by E.I. Daes (Sales No. E.91.XIV.3)

No. 5 Study on the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, by F. Capotorti (Sales No. E.91.XIV.2)

No. 6 Human Rights and Disabled Persons by L. Despouy (Sales No. E.92.XIV.4)

Professional Training Series

No. 1 Human rights and social work: A manual for schools of social work and the social work profession (Sales No. E.94.XIV.4)

No. 2 Human rights and elections: A handbook on the legal, technical and human rights aspects of elections (HR/P/PT/2)

No. 3 Human rights and pre-trial detention: A handbook of international standards relating to pre-trial detention (Sales No. E94.XIV.6)

Other Publications

ABC: Teaching Human Rights (Sales No. E.90.I.5)

Human Rights Newsletter

Human Rights: Questions and Answers

Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments, vol. I (two parts), Universal instruments (Sales No. E.94.XIV.1)

Human Rights: Status of International Instruments (Sales No. E.87.XIV.2)

Human Rights International Instruments: Chart of Ratification as of 30 December 1994 (ST/HR/4/Rev.11)

Human Rights Bibliography (Sales No. E.GV.92.0.16)

Human Rights Committee, Selected Decisions under the Optional Protocol (Second to Sixteenth Sessions) (Sales No. E.84.XIV.2)

Selected Decisions of the Human Rights Committee Under the Optional Protocol, Volume 2, Seventeenth to Thirty-second Sessions (October 1992-April 1988) (Sales No. E.89.XIV.1)

Official Records of the Human Rights Committee

United Nations Reference Guide in the Field of Human Rights (Sales No. E.93.XIV.4)

United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights

Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee

Yearbook on Human Rights